

(Mobile ebook) Blood 'n' Thunder: Winter/Spring 2013

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James A Lawson

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James A Lawson : Blood 'n' Thunder: Winter/Spring 2013 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Blood 'n' Thunder: Winter/Spring 2013:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. "That cry of `Red! Red!' had made him two hundred pounds of living steel."By Mark Louis Baumgart"Blood 'N' Thunder" is a long running pulp-oriented magazine that has gone from being a self-published fanzine, to a professional perfectbound print-on-demand magazine. And while I have a lot of these magazines, I have yet to, word-by-word, read one all the way through, but I decided to do that with this one as it covered so much that I was interested in that I had to read to read it all.*****Like all issues this issue has an editorial, which is Ed Hulse's forum to talk about the contents of his magazine, and various other things. There's also a letters section, in which some readers pop-off about a previous issue's article about the new pulp movement. They object, and I don't get why. I guess people want to think that what they're interested in is special, and they can do this through some clannish interest, like pulp literature, and it's proven through these letters. However, while old pulp is great, at times, none of the writers really make any sense as to why new pulp fictions shouldn't be written. We don't

stop making rock'n'roll 'cuz Chuck Berry and Little Richard were there first. The whole argument just bores me.*****Saw at least one book in the book review section that I'm gonna hafta look up, and these reviews are followed by a report about Pulpfest 2013, and then a great down-to-earth musing about writing for the adventure pulps from pulp pro H. Bedford-Jones from his 1929 book. There is some solid writing advice here, some of which even modern editors could use. The article is peppered with covers from pulp magazines that Bedford-Jones has appeared in. I found it interesting as to how the covers of Blue Book Magazine had changed from 1915 to 1939 when they got a LOT more sexy.*****James Reasoner gives us a brace of rare pulp reviews from his blog site. Again, I wish I had more money, and way more time, to explore the pulps more than I can. The "Operator 5" review wasn't much of a review however as it was more of an opinion piece on the pulp magazine itself.*****The magazine really picks up though with Robert Barreiro's look at Spain's El Coyote, a western hero that started off as a Zorro knock-off, but which evolved into something so much more, and how El Coyote is as ingrained into Spain's culture as, or even moreso, as Zorro or the Lone Ranger is here.*****I really enjoyed Ed Hulse's look at the early serials of the influential studio Vitagraph. Hulse examines each serial in minute detail, explains to us how they made stars out of actors like William Duncan, and the Latin heartbreaker Antonio Moreno, who only could have made it in the silents as he could barely speak English. What will break your heart is that after all the detail he goes into, Hulse informs us that ALL of Vitagraph's serials, some of which still sound worth watching, have been lost to time. Too bad more wasn't said about the actresses of these films, like Duncan's wife Edith Johnson, and Carol Holloway.*****Up next is a fascinating article about the lost and forgotten writer Edwin Truett "Bud" Long, who was another prolific author, whose convoluted career ended up filling pulp after pulp with stories, all under house names and pseudonyms. 'The Truth About Truett' by Will Murray shows Murray at his literary detective best. Truett, like C. M. Kornbluth, was another writer, whose writing career was cut short by injuries caused by fighting in WWII. Murray again touches on the shadowy practices of the Trojan/Speedy pulpline, practices that ended up with people being sent to the hoosegow. There's an article about that, that I would like to read.*****Fred Nadis biography of sf editor Raymond Palmer is excerpted to show his early startings in the pulp jungle, from his sf fanzines, to Palmer's soft core porn for "Scarlet Adventuress", to his first stories for "Amazing Stories", and finally, how he got the editorship of the Ziff-Davis pulp line.*****Will Murray, Rick Lai, Dafydd N. Dyar, Link Hullar, and Ed Hulse all give us a round-robin look at their favorite under-rated Doc Savage novels. More books for me to put on my list of things to read. This is an article that is just chock-a-block with Doc Savage cover reproductions. As a sidenote, I still want to see SOMEBODY do a Pat Savage novel!*****Up next is 'The Word of Fun Manchu' by William Patrick Maynard in which all of the stories and novels dealing with Fu Manchu by all three, so far, authors of this character are looked at, and reviewed. Maynard also includes in his article how his own novels involving Fu Manchu fit into the Fu Manchu mythology. I got a lot of these novels, and Maynard lets me know which are worth reading for the casual fan, and Maynard puts all of the stories and novels into chronological order. Maybe Maynard will someday look at some of the other series of Sax Rohmer, who created the Fu Manchu character and universe. Too bad he barely mentions the radio series, and never mentioned the great comic book spin-off "Shang Chi: Master of Kung-Fu".*****Richard W. Bann's article 'Nick And Nora In The Beginning' is a look at how the Nick and Nora Charles characters came to be brought to the screen, and how Woody Van Dyke had to fight to get the movie made. Bann details how the studio heads thought that the detective genre was dead at the box office, and how Van Dyke had to fight to get both William Powell and Myrna Loy as the leads. There's also a full page piece of artwork from the original "Redbook" printing of the "Thin Man" novel. Bann also looks at the chemistry between the two stars, and how the series of movies re-energized the detective genre, and both of the stars' careers. Great stuff, this article made me go back and watch a couple of the movies again.*****This issue also reprints two stories from the May 1928 issue of "Frontier Stories"*****The first is 'He's a Good Little Guy At That' by W. Wirt, and it while it may be historically important as Wirt's second pulp fiction sale, and the first in the Jimmie Cordie series, it has dated badly. Four soldiers of fortune have no problem raping and pillaging a Malay village, and murdering and killing all that oppose them. But really, in-the-end, these looters are just a bunch of softies as they rescue a kidnapped white girl who's about to be sacrificed. Yeah right. I've never heard of W. Wirt before, and I wasn't impressed by this story enough to want to read anything else by him.*****Next up is 'Postage-Due' by Warren Hastings Miller, and it's a much more subdued story than Wirt's, and it's also a much more clever and subtle story, less action oriented, but with a great deal more of suspense, and a way more likable protagonist. Burma secret serviceman Bruce Romney and his loyal second-in-command Dayong have to get the famous "Peace Ruby" out of Burma to London, all the while being pursued by the city's four major crime cartels. Will Romney Dayong get the Ruby out of town, or will the bad guys win? Aw shucks people, you already know the answer to that one don't you? The fun though, is the journey that the author takes us, and that's a fact. A cool suspense adventure, with some good last-minute escapes for our heroes. Still stands-up today, with little patronizing and racism to mar it. Glad I read it.*****This story is followed by two art portfolios. One of cropped images, mostly of women in distress from the pulps. These look like they were copied from the original artwork. I don't know about anybody else, but I wanna know who that model H. J. Ward seems to constantly use. She's a doll. See customer images to see an image of her. Next up is pulp pin-up queen Mala Mastroberte's imaginative use of old pulp covers. She

makes herself up look like the model on a pulp cover, and then photographs herself in the same model's pose, and then superimposes herself onto the cover image. See customer images for an example of her work. I like them all, but I especially like the "Detective World" and the "Fantastic Novels Magazine" reimagined covers. Woo-woo. All in all, a dynamite issue. Can't wait for the next issue.

This double issue boasts the great variety of articles, reviews, pulp reprints, and pictorial features in BLOOD 'N' THUNDER's history. Articles include: the 20 most underrated Doc Savage novels, chosen by a blue-ribbon panel of experts; a celebration of the Fu Manchu centennial by Bill Maynard, the Devil Doctor's current chronicler; the making of THE THIN MAN by eminent film historian Richard Bann; the early career of AMAZING STORIES editor Raymond A. Palmer; H. Bedford-Jones on writing for the pulps; silent-era movie serials made by Vitagraph Company of America; a Spanish-language Zorro simulacrum called El Coyote; and much more. Also, a pictorial feature with the stylings of pulp's new pinup queen, Mala Mastroberte. Plus reprints of rare, uncollected pulp stories, and much more.